

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 IO-11 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 302050Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9510

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, AORG, BL

SUBJECT: CREATION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTEGRATION

1. ON JANUARY 23 GOB COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVED SUPREME DECREE CREATING SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTEGRATION. NEW AGENCY WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND REPLACES TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF INTEGRATION WHICH WAS LOCATED IN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. AGENCY WILL HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR "CONDUCT, EXECUTION, COORDINATION, CONTROL, EVALUATION AND LEGAL COUNSELLING ON ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION IN WHICH THE COUNTRY PARTICIPATES," ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS. STRUCTURALLY, THE AGENCY WILL CONSIST OF
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SUPERIOR (EXECUTIVE) DIRECTOR, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, COUNSEL, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND OPERATIONS.

3. STATED PURPOSE OF SUBJECT AGENCY IS DEVELOP A COHERENT POLICY OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATION, AND FROM THE LATTER, IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. IT IS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON RELATED FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, AND WITH MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHICH RELATE TO INTEGRATION.

4. GOB NAMING WILLIE VARGAS, BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY AND REPRESENTATIVE TO ALALC, AS SECRETARY GENERAL FOR INTEGRATION. ADOLFO GUTIERREZ, WHO HANDLED INTEGRATION MATTERS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAS RESIGNED HIS POSITION.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. A CHANGE IN GOB MANAGEMENT OF INTEGRATION MATTERS HAS BEEN IN THE WINDS SINCE A SPECIAL COMMISSION IN LATE 1975 ISSUED A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT HIGHLY CRITICAL OF BOLIVIA'S FAILURE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANDEAN INTEGRATION MOVEMENT AND, BY IMPLICATION, OF GUTIERREZ' HANDLING OF INTEGRATION AFFAIRS. THE CURRENT ANDEAN PACT CRISIS PROBABLY HIGHLIGHTED TO SENIOR GOB OFFICIALS THE GENERALLY DISORGANIZED STATE OF BOLIVIA'S INTEGRATION POLICY. WHETHER THE NEW ORGANIZATION WILL IMPROVE MATTERS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. VARGAS HAD A MIXED REPUTATION WHEN HE SERVED AS PALACE ADVISER TO PRESENT BANZER. HE REPORTEDLY WAS ORIGINALLY ASKED TO RETURN TO AGAIN BE A PRESIDENTAL ADVISER, BUT IS BEING GIVEN THE INTEGRATION POSITION IN DEFENCE TO BANZER'S OTHER ECONOMIC ADVISERS. SEVERAL GOB OFFICIALS SAY HE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB REPRESENTING BOLIVIA AT ALALC. SINCE VARGAS IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN UNTIL LATE FEBRUARY AND GUTIERREZ IS GONE, BOLIVIA'S PARTICIPATION IN ANDEAN PACT MEETINGS UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH IS LIKELY TO BE MORE DISORGANIZED THAN EVER.
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To: STATE
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